



CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER

24-HOUR REPORT

23 JULY 2021

(U) CALIFORNIA

(U) Statewide – Thieves in California are Stealing Scarce Water Amid Extreme Drought

(U) As an extreme drought grips California, making water increasingly scarce, thieves are making off with billions-of-gallons of the precious resource, tapping into fire hydrants, rivers, and even small family homes, farms, and wells. State and local officials say water theft is a long running-issue, but the intensifying drought has driven the thefts to record levels as reservoirs dry up and bandits make off with stolen water, often to cultivate the growth of illegal marijuana crops. The California Department of Fish and Wildlife Marijuana Enforcement Team has been fighting the thefts for years, usually in rural areas of the parched state, that have been "devastating" communities. More than 12 billion gallons of water are estimated to have been stolen across the state since 2013, impacting legitimate farming operations, drinking water sources, Native American tribes, and small communities.

SOURCE: 22 July 2021, [CNN](#)

(U) NATIONAL

(U) District of Columbia – Ex-Army Ranger Used Military Training During Capitol Riot, Judge Says

(U) Washington – A federal judge ordered a former US Army Ranger accused of rioting on 6 January to remain behind bars before his trial, after he was accused of using his training amid the attack. Magistrate Judge Michael Harvey said on Tuesday that Robert Morss was "willing to use his training or experience to organize with the rioters on January 6, thereby making their actions more effective, more forceful and more violent." The judge added that rioters had "appeared disorganized" until Morss began issuing instructions and organizing others amid the attack on the US Capitol. A total of five people died amid the violence, and hundreds more were injured. Judge Harvey described Morss as having been "in his element" was seen in videos shared to social media successfully stealing a fence, baton, and protective shields from Capitol police. Morss has pleaded not guilty.

SOURCE: 21 July 2021, [Yahoo News](#)

(U) Mississippi – Officials Arrest Man Who Allegedly Attacked Officers During Capitol Riot

(U) Walls – Authorities have arrested a man who allegedly attacked officers with a metal rod during the 6 January insurrection at the Capitol, according to the Department of Justice. Authorities arrested Michael Leon Brock of Walls, Mississippi, on Tuesday and charged him with assaulting, resisting or impeding certain officers and obstruction of law enforcement during civil disorder, according to the statement. Body camera footage from a Capitol officer shows Brock at the Upper West Terrace of the Capitol building charging at officers with a 4-foot rod, allegedly striking and pushing the officers back during the altercation.

SOURCE: 21 July, 2021, [DOJ](#)

(U) Texas – Man Arrested had Fake Bomb Strapped to Chest

(U) Dallas – A man who was arrested Thursday and suspected of trying to steal a car had a fake explosive device strapped to his chest, causing a police standoff with a SWAT team, Dallas police said. At least 12 officers responded to the standoff Thursday afternoon, which ended when authorities determined the

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device was not real, police said. At around 5:32 p.m., officers responded to a vehicle theft call in Uptown Dallas. An investigation found that a man had tried to steal a vehicle. But the owner of the car fought off the suspect, who ran into an office building where the standoff occurred, according to police.

SOURCE: 21 July 2021, [NBC Dallas](#)

(U) INTERNATIONAL

(U) Central African Republic – At Least A Dozen Civilians Killed in Central African Republic Attack

(U) Bangui – Thirteen civilians were killed in clashes north of Bangui, the capital of the perennially restive Central African Republic (CAR), the UN mission in the country said Thursday. Peacekeepers found 13 dead bodies in Bongboto about 190 miles north of Bangui. CAR is the second least-developed country in the world according to the UN and suffers from the aftermath of a brutal civil conflict that erupted in 2013. MINUSCA said it would do everything “to shed light on this sad incident” and bring the attackers to justice. The government has blamed the Coalition of Patriots for Change, created in December 2020 to try and topple President Faustin Archange Touadera, of being behind the attack.

SOURCE: 21 July 2021, [France 24](#)

(U) Iraq – ISIS Attack Kills Two Soldiers in Iraq's Salahuddin Province

(U) Salahuddin – Two Iraqi soldiers have been killed and three others injured in an Islamic State in Iraq and ash-Sham (ISIS) attack in Iraq's northern province of Salahuddin. Gunmen believed to be affiliated with the ISIS terror group attacked the headquarters of the 66th Army Brigade in the Mutaibija area in the northern part of the province. He added that reinforcements were dispatched to the site as ISIS members fled the area. Iraq declared victory over ISIS in 2017, however, the group continues to launch attacks against army and PMF positions, leaving casualties and causing material damages. According to security experts, ISIS remains active in Diyala, Kirkuk, and Salahuddin.

SOURCE: 21 July, 2021, [Asharq Al-Awsat](#)

(U) Madagascar – French Citizen Among Six Held Over Plan to Kill Madagascar President

(U) Antananarivo – A French citizen is among six people arrested on suspicion of involvement in a plot to kill Madagascar's president, the Indian Ocean island's public security minister said, and a second official said the president's security had been tightened. One of the arrested people is French, two of them are bi-national: Malagasy and French. The three others are Malagasy. Madagascar's attorney general said on Thursday police had arrested the six following what officials said was a months-long investigation. Two of those arrested had previously worked in the French military. The French Foreign Affairs Ministry said it had been informed of French nationals' arrests and that they could obtain consular help if they asked for it.

SOURCE: 21 July, 2021, [Reuters](#)

(U) PREPARED BY THE CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER.

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